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MONDAY
MAY 4, 1953

I went over to see Wilfrid Baumgartner this morning at the Bank of France. We talked about the critical French financial and economic situation. I have no hope of any lasting remedy being found until such time as real political stability can be achieved through a constitutional change giving greater power to the executive branch of the Government and leaving it no longer completely at the mercy of the whims of the members of the National Assembly.

He showed me photographs of almost a room-full of silver gilt ornaments, dressing sets and so forth, made for Napoleon and Josephine, which are for sale in Switzerland. The Bank of France, because of the lack of funds at the Louvre, is thinking of purchasing the collection so as to repatriate it. I hope this takes place.

Ted Achilles called here this afternoon to discuss the matter under negotiation between the U. K. and France affecting U. K. association with EDC. The British had proposed an extension of the NATO Treaty from twenty to fifty years so as to make it coterminous with the EDC Treaty. The Department seems to think if this is done there would be a bad reaction in the United States because the Senate might feel pressure was being exercised upon it to lengthen the NATO term. There has been a great deal of cabling back and forth on this question. It appears to me at the present time there is no necessity for the United States to make its final views known but the British and the continentals should proceed to make their own deal and we will [illegible] later.

John Hill, a member of an important public relations organization in New York, called on me in connection with correspondence I have had with

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George Allen and others regarding publicity for the Coal and Steel Community in the United States. I told him I would take this up with Monnet when I see him later in the week in Luxembourg.

Don Cook of the New York Herald Tribune paid me a visit. He is pessimistic about the prospects of EDC ratification. Adenauer has as yet reached no conclusion concerning further action by the Bundesrat.

Bill Draper brought in Ambassador Heeney, the Canadian representative to NATO. He is an attractive fellow.

Baroness Edouard de Rothschild gave a dinner for us tonight at her house on Avenue Foch. Her furniture, pictures, rugs, and so forth are the finest I have ever seen in a private house, [redacted] Most of them had previously been in the Palais Talleyrand, whence they had been sent in crates to Germany during the occupation. At the end of the war it was found that the Germans had methodically classified everything and the Rothschilds recovered about eighty percent of what had been looted. There were a lot of beautiful women there, especially Marie de Rothschild, Eve Curie, and, perhaps the most amazing of all perenially beautiful women, Dolce Martinez de Hoz. It was a delightful evening.

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